

House File 151 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 151

BY JORGENSEN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the driver of a motor vehicle to maintain a
2 certain distance when passing a bicycle on a highway, and
3 making penalties applicable.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.299, subsection 1, Code 2013, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. a. The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle
4 proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left of the
5 other vehicle at a safe distance and shall not again drive
6 to the right side of the roadway until safely clear of the
7 overtaken vehicle.

8 b. The driver of a motor vehicle, when overtaking and
9 passing a bicycle, shall leave a safe distance between the
10 motor vehicle and the bicycle of not less than three feet and
11 shall maintain such clearance until safely past the overtaken
12 bicycle, whether the bicycle is traveling on the roadway or on
13 a bicycle lane or shoulder adjacent to the roadway.

14 EXPLANATION

15 This bill requires the driver of a motor vehicle, when
16 passing a bicycle, to maintain a safe distance between the
17 motor vehicle and the bicycle of at least three feet until
18 safely past the bicycle. The requirement applies whether the
19 bicycle is being ridden on the roadway or on a bicycle lane or
20 shoulder adjacent to the roadway.

21 Pursuant to current law, a violation of motor vehicle laws
22 governing overtaking and passing is a simple misdemeanor
23 punishable by a scheduled fine of \$100. In addition, if the
24 violation causes serious injury to another person, the court
25 may impose an additional fine of \$500 or driver's license
26 suspension for up to 90 days, or both. If the violation
27 results in an accident causing a death, the court may impose an
28 additional fine of \$1,000 or driver's license suspension for
29 up to 180 days, or both.